(c) and (d) No, Sir. Gap in urban and rural literacy rate was 28.39 in 1991 and it reduced to 21.18 in 2001. To further bridge this gap, the new programme is being implemented only in rural areas of eligible districts.

Cut off marks for JEE

232. SHRI D. RAJA:
SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering a proposal to raise the minimum of 60 per cent marks in class XII Board to 80 percent for Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) for admission to the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government is aware that a high score in class XII depends on many social and external factors like the school, its facilities, etc. and students coming from rural and small town schools will not be eligible for appearing in JEE if the cut off marks is raised to 80 per cent; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) Joint Admission Board (JAB), which consists of representatives from all the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), Indian School of Mines (ISM), Dhanbad and Institute of Technology - Banaras Hindu University (IT-BHU) as well as a representative of the Ministry of Human Resource Development, make recommendations in respect of matters relating to the Joint Entrance Examination (JEE). A Review Committee has been set up by the JAB to give its recommendations regarding factoring in of class XII results on a percentile basis while deciding admissions into IITs. Integrating of class XII results with JEE results, would help students with rural backgrounds to get admission into IITs by reducing their dependence on coaching. Variation in the results of various Boards would be taken care of by following the cut-off marks on percentile basis.

Lateral entry into colleges

233. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:
DR. K. MALAISAMY:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the University Grants Commission (UGC) proposes to allow lateral entry into college faculties at higher salaries to attract best brains to higher education in the country;

(b) if so, the facts and details thereof;

(c) whether the proposal of the UGC has since been cleared by Government; and